

The amendments and remarks do not introduce new issues requiring additional searches. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the remarks be considered.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1,3, 5 and 12 as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended three times). A hydrogel comprising  
at least one protein or peptide linked via urea groups to PEGs, and wherein  
one or more of the at least one protein or peptide is optionally capable of  
scavenging free radicals.

Claim 3 (Amended three times).The hydrogel according to Claim 1, wherein the  
PEGs are activated by aliphatic or aromatic or arylaliphatic diisocyanates.

Claim 5 (Amended three times). The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein free  
radical scavengers are selected from the group consisting of superoxide  
dismutase, catalase, glutathione peroxidase, myeloperoxidase, and  
combinations thereof.

Claim 12 (twice amended). A process for producing a hydrogel according to  
claim 1, comprising the steps of, in order:

a) reacting anhydrous PEGs with diisocyanate in a solvent, optionally in  
the presence of a catalyst,

- b) removing the solvent from the resulting product of activated PEGs by filtration, washing or drying,
- c) reacting the activated PEGs in aqueous solution with proteins, the proteins being present in a buffer which is optionally chosen so that the proteins retain their biological activity,
- d) optionally, carrying out purification steps and washes .

Please add new claims 17-18, as follows:

Claim 17 (New). A hydrogel comprising:

- (a) a matrix comprising PEG, wherein said PEG has been modified so as to provide unblocked urea groups;
- (b) one or more peptides and/or proteins, wherein said peptides or proteins possess enzymatic activity; and
- (c) optionally free radical scavengers in the form of transition metal complexes or nitroxide complexes;  
wherein at least a portion of said peptides or proteins are directly linked to the PEG matrix.

Claim 18 (New). The hydrogel of claim 17, wherein PEG is modified by an  $\alpha,\omega$ -diisocyanate having a hydrophilic center.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 11-16 are in the application. New claims 17-18 have been added. The claims are clearly supported by the specification. In addition, claim 17 recites only the SOD mimics disclosed in the Wang article.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 11-16 have been objected to for allegedly reciting non-elected species. This has been addressed by the foregoing amendments.